

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16, 20, 25, 28 and 29 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 15, 17, 18, 21-24, 26 and 27 are amended. Claims 30-41 are added.

Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 15, 18, 19, 23, 26 and 27 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their parent claims.

Accordingly, Claim 15 is herewith rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its parent independent Claim 14, and Claim 18 is herewith rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its parent Claim 14 and 16. Claim 19 depends from Claim 18.

Claim 23 is herewith placed in independent form and includes the subject matter of its parent independent claim 20 and that part of its parent dependent Claim 21 required to provide proper antecedent basis, the remaining portions of parent Claim 21 apparently being considered by the Examiner not to contain allowable subject matter and thus are omitted as unnecessary limitations. Claims 26 and 27 are herewith placed in independent form as above described with respect to Claim 23. Accordingly, all of allowable subject matter claims 15, 18, 19, 23, 26 and 27 are now believed in form for allowance.

Claims 15 and 17 depend from Claim 18 and are believed allowable therewith. Claims 21 (as here amended), 22 and 24 depend from Claim 23 and are believed allowable therewith. Accordingly the aforementioned claims are believed in condition for allowance.

Aside from the aforementioned allowable subject matter Claims 15, 18, 19, 23, 26 and 27, the pending Office Action rejects the remaining original claims as being unpatentable over Su alone, or modified in view of Honda and/or Rhoad and/or Chen.

New independent Claim 30 calls for a light emitter fixed inside a housing in light transmitting relation with a lens and substantially ring-like light transmitting member. In contrast, the cited Su ring 6 is of light reflecting (not transmitting) material, and is not taught to transmit light from a light source in the housing 5 behind the lens 51, but rather to carry a second light emitter 7 on the front face of the ring 6. The Su Figure 5 embodiment adds a transparent ring 64 but in front of the cited ring 6 and to transmit light from the second light emitter 7 on the ring 6, not from a light source in the housing 5 supplying the lens 51.

Further, Claim 30 requires a substantially ring-like light transmitting member fixed on the housing rim, a substantially ring-like retainer mounted on such substantially ring-like light transmitting member, and a lens in turn mounted on the substantially ring-like retainer, such that the substantially ring-like light transmitting member and retainer are in sequence mountingly interposed between the housing rim and lens. In contrast, Su does not teach how it mounts its lens 51 on its housing 5, its outer ring groove 52 (Su paragraph 21) being provided in the front end of the housing 51 for receiving the reflective ring 6. Thus, in more particular contrast with Claim 30, the Su Figure 5 light reflecting (not transmitting) ring 6 merely mounts the transparent ring 64 and second light source 7 on the housing 5, and the Su rings 61 and 64 are not mountingly interposed between its lens 51 and housing 5.

Accordingly, Claim 30 is believed clearly distinguishable over Su.

The Office Action cites the secondary Honda reference for teaching a lamp with a base having a mounting surface attaching portion and a support shaft and a halogen light bulb, none of which is relevant to Claim 30.

The Office Action cites Rhoad for teaching a retaining ring 28 with a plurality of openings 34. Rhoad merely discloses a camouflage-like cover to snap over the turned-off

headlight of a vehicle, so that the headlight lens/reflector do not visibly reflect outside light. The cited Rhoad structure is not relevant to Claim 30.

The cited Chen light transmitting member 20 containing a light emitter 13 not a ring, but merely a one-piece cup-shaped light transmitting lens (see Figure 3) and the cited elements 24 are not resilient elements, but rather (Column 2, line 45) "tooth-like projections formed on an inside surface of the cover (lens) 20". Moreover, like Su, Chen calls for an additional, secondary light emitter 15.

Accordingly, Honda, Rhoad and Chen add nothing to Su to make obvious Claim 30.

Claims 31-27 depend from Claim 30, are believed allowable therewith and carry additional distinguishing limitations.

New independent Claim 38 distinguishes Su in requiring a housing having (1) a primary light emitting opening opposing a light emitter in the housing and (2) a wall including a rim bounding that opening and at least one secondary light emitting opening also opposing the aforementioned light emitter. Honda and Chen are not relevant to Claim 38 for reasons given above as to Claim 30. The Rhoad headlight cover does have apertures 34 in its rim 35, but Rhoad suggests no light emitting at its openings 34 and indeed Rhoad teaches that its camouflage light cover be on a vehicle headlight unit when the latter is turned off and thus not emitting light. Rhoad does not show a headlight unit and so cannot teach that its opening 34 would face a light-emission-capable part or an opaque part of a headlight unit. No light emitting openings would appear in the peripheral wall of the light emitter containing housing 5 with the Rhoad camouflage cover clipped thereon.

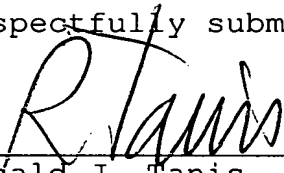
Moreover, Claim 38 requires first, second and third distinct, spaced-apart, substantially concentric light paths from the light emitter and out of the housing. Su in contrast suggests transmitting light from a light emitter in the housing 5 through only one light path, namely the lens 51.

Moreover, Claim 38 specifically defines the first, second and third light paths as (1) a lens at a primary light emitting opening, (2) a light transmitting ring-like base surrounding the lens, and (3) at least one light transmitting finger at a secondary light emitting opening. Accordingly, Claim 38 distinguishes clearly over Su. Further, none of the secondary references of record suggest more than one light path, namely a light transmitting lens, from the light emitter in the housing, out of the housing.

Accordingly, Claim 38 is believed to clearly distinguish over the references of record. Claims 39-41 depend from Claim 38, are believed allowable therewith, and are believed to provide additional distinguishing matter.

The application is believed in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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